

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A key chain rechargeable device, comprising:
 key securing structure;
 an electronic device associated with said key securing
 structure; and
 a rechargeable battery source to power said electronic
 device;
10 wherein said key chain rechargeable device is recharged
 from an external power source when a key associated with said securing
 structure is inserted in a lock device.
- 15 2. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
 wherein:
 said key securing structure is a dummy key hole.
- 20 3. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
 further comprising:
 a charging circuit in said electronic device, said charging
 circuit adapted for electrical contact with a key secured by said key
 securing structure.
- 25 4. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 3,
 wherein:
 said charging circuit is permanently associated with said key
 chain rechargeable device.

5. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 3,
wherein:

said charging circuit is permanently associated with said
lock.

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6. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:

said external power source is a vehicle's electrical system.

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7. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a wireless RF device.

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8. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a BLUETOOTH
network device.

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9. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a security alarm
enable/disable device.

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10. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim
1, wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a keyless entry
remote.

11. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a penlight device.

5 12. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a pager.

10 13. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inductive coil to receive charging power to charge said rechargeable battery source.

15 14. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least one electrical conductor on a key secured to said key securing structure.

20 15. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is recharged from said external power source only when said key associated with said securing structure is inserted in said lock device.

25 16. A vehicle ignition assembly, comprising:

a lock device;

a vehicle ignition switch connected to said lock device; and

30 at least two electrical charging connections associated with said lock device and adapted to provide opposite polarity contacts to a key inserted in said lock device.

17. The vehicle ignition assembly according to claim 16,
further comprising:

5 a battery charging circuit connected to said opposite polarity
contacts.

18. A vehicle ignition assembly, comprising:

a lock device;

a vehicle ignition switch connected to said lock device; and

10 an inductive charging coil adapted to provide battery
charging power to a key chain rechargeable device placed proximate to
said vehicle ignition assembly.

19. A method of recharging a key chain electronic device,
15 comprising:

inserting a key on a key chain in a lock device; and

coupling a rechargeable battery of a key chain electronic
device to an external power source associated with said lock device only
when said key is in said lock device.

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20. The method of recharging a key chain electronic device
according to claim 19, wherein:

said coupling is inductive.

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21. The method of recharging a key chain electronic device
according to claim 19, wherein:

said coupling is by direct electrical contact of opposite
polarity conductors.

22. Apparatus for recharging a key chain electronic device,
comprising:

key chain means for securing a key while inserted in a lock
device; and

5 means for coupling a rechargeable battery of a key chain
electronic device to an external power source associated with said lock
device only when said key is in said lock device.

23. The apparatus for recharging a key chain electronic
10 device according to claim 22, wherein:

said means for coupling uses inductive coupling.

24. The apparatus for recharging a key chain electronic
device according to claim 22, wherein:

15 said means for coupling uses direct electrical contact of
opposite polarity conductors.

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